

Amendment to the Claims

1-24. (Previously cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An unbalanced ion pair surfactant comprising a first N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and a second amino acid in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to the first acylamino acid, with ion pairs between carboxyl anions of the acylamino acid and amino group cations of the amino acid.

26. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the first N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and the second amino acid are in a ratio of between 1.0 to 1.4 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to the first acylamino acid.

27. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the second amino acid is at least one alpha-amino acid.

28. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxylproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

29. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycyglycine.

30. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 25, wherein the first acylamino acid is an N-C₁₂₋₁₈ acylamino acid.

31. (Previously Presented) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 25, wherein the surfactant content is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.
32. (Previously Presented) An emulsion composition that contains an essential surfactant as described in claim 25 as an emulsifier between 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion, water, and oil components.
33. (Currently Amended) An unbalanced ion pair surfactant comprising a first dicarboxylic N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and a second amino acid in a ratio of between 1.3 to 2.3 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to 2 equivalents of the first acylamino acid, having less than equal molar amounts of alkali counterion, with ion pairs between carboxyl anions of the acylamino acid and amino group cations of the amino acid.
34. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the first N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and the second amino acid are in a ratio of between 1.4 to 2.0 equivalents of the second amino acid relative to 2 equivalents of the first acylamino acid.
35. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the first amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acylglutamic acid and acylaspartic acid.
36. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxylproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycyglycine.

37. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the second amino acid is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, glutamic acid, and glycyglycine.
38. (Previously Presented) A surfactant according to claim 33, wherein the first acylamino acid is an N-C₁₂₋₁₈ acylamino acid.
39. (Previously Presented) An emulsion comprising a surfactant salt according to claim 33, wherein the surfactant content is 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion.
40. (Previously Presented) An emulsion composition that contains an essential surfactant as described in claim 33 as an emulsifier between 0.1% to 5% by weight of the emulsion, water, and oil components.
41. (New) A surfactant characterised in comprising a blend of an acidic or neutral N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and a base, wherein
said base has an ion pair formed by an anion deriving from a carboxyl group of an amino acid and a cation deriving from one of alkali metals, alkaline earth metals, organic amines, basic amino acids, N-methyltaurine sodium, N-methyltaurine potassium, taurine sodium, and taurine potassium, and
said acidic or neutral N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and said base are in neutralised form as ion pairs having a pH of 5 to 9, where
the amount of said base is 1.0 to 1.6 equivalents relative to 1 equivalent of N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid and, in the case where the N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid has two carboxyl groups, is 1.3 to 2.3 equivalents relative to 2 equivalents of N-C₈₋₂₄ acylamino acid.

42. (New) A surfactant according to claim 41, wherein an amino acid in the base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of acidic amino acids and neutral amino acids.

43. (New) A surfactant according to claim 41, wherein an amino acid in the base is at least one member selected from α -amino acids.

44. (New) A surfactant according to claim 41, wherein an amino acid in the base is at least one member selected from the group consisting of glycine, trimethylglycine, alanine, serine, proline, hydroxyproline, glutamine, glutamic acid, asparagine, aspartic acid, and glycylglycine.